



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2006

GENERAL ADVISORY FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY COASTAL WATERS *Rain Brings Urban Runoff To County Beaches*

The Department of Environmental Health has issued a General Advisory for the coastal waters of San Diego County due to recent rainfall. Swimmers, surfers, and other ocean users are warned that the levels of bacteria can rise significantly in ocean and bay waters, especially near storm drains, creeks, rivers, and lagoon outlets that discharge urban runoff. Urban runoff may contain large amounts of bacteria from a variety of sources such as animal waste, soil, and decomposing vegetation. While many coastal storm drains within San Diego County are permanently posted with white metal warning signs, additional temporary warning signs are not posted for General Advisories.

Activities such as swimming, surfing and diving should be avoided for 72 hours following rain. This includes all ocean beaches as well as San Diego Bay and Mission Bay. Elevated bacteria levels can persist after a rainstorm depending upon the intensity of the storm, volume of runoff and ocean and current conditions.

***For updates on beach closure information please call the 24-hr. hotline at (619) 338-2073.
OR log- on to www.earth911.org and enter your zip code. Select "Beach Water Quality"***

###